

My name is Shyla, and I am here in support of preserving the Homeless Youth line item. I am a former DCF youth. I didn't have reliable family and that lead me being homeless as a teenager with a young child. With nowhere to go and my discharge as a foster youth coming, they referred me to the START program. In just a short few months that I've been in this program I have been showed lots of support and encouragement. My worker reaches out to me every week making sure I'm ok and have everything I need for my kids. They've helped me set goals and guide me when I needed help or felt lost. One of my goals is to enroll in the police academy and I've got nothing but encouragement from the START program. I'm so grateful for everything they have done for me, because of them I over came so much! Thank you, Appropriations Committee, for your time.